

WE CLAIM:

1. A vehicle seat assembly comprising:

a seat backrest;

a seat bottom mounted to the floor of a vehicle;

at least one seat backrest reclining assembly having a base, a rotating latching mechanism, and a reclining arm, said reclining arm fixedly mounted to said seat backrest, said rotating latching mechanism mounted between said reclining arm and said base to define an axis of rotation such that said reclining arm and said seat backrest may be operatively and selectively rotated relative to said base about said axis of rotation;

a pivot arm mounted to said base and having a pivot axis point disposed at a predetermined distance from said axis of rotation of said reclining assembly;

a locking arm rotatively mounted to said pivot arm coaxial to said axis of rotation of said reclining assembly having a first locking surface and a second locking surface, said locking arm selectively movable to rotate between a locked position and an unlocked position; and

a support arm fixedly mounted to said seat bottom and rotatively mounted to said pivot arm at said pivot axis point, such that said pivot arm and said seat backrest may be rotated about said pivot axis point between an upright position and a folded position, said support arm providing a first locking point such that when said pivot arm and said seat backrest are in the upright position said first locking surface of said locking arm is engaged at said first locking point and said seat backrest is locked upright, said support arm further providing a second locking point such that when said pivot arm and said seat backrest are in the folded position said second locking surface of said locking arm is engaged at said second locking point and said seat backrest is locked folded.

2. A vehicle seat assembly as set forth in claim 1 wherein said first locking point for said locking arm is further defined as a locking pin.

3. A vehicle seat assembly as set forth in claim 2 wherein said support arm further includes a terminal end that has a stepped surface which presents a stop to said locking arm when said pivot arm and said seat backrest are in the folded position.

4. A vehicle seat assembly as set forth in claim 1 further including a biasing member adapted to bias said locking arm to remain in said first locking position unless selectively operated to rotate out of said first locked position and unlock said seat backrest when said seat backrest and said pivot arm are in the upright position.

5. A vehicle seat assembly as set forth in claim 4 further including a cable release assembly that is remotely operable to selectively rotate said locking arm out of said first locked position and unlock said seat backrest when said seat backrest and said pivot arm are in the upright position.

6. A vehicle seat assembly as set forth in claim 1 further including a biasing member adapted to bias said locking arm to remain in said second locking position when said seat backrest and said pivot arm are in the folded position unless selectively operated to rotate out of said second locked position and unlock said seat backrest.

7. A vehicle seat assembly as set forth in claim 6 further including a cable release assembly that is remotely operable to selectively rotate said locking arm out of said second locked position and unlock said seat backrest when said seat backrest and said pivot arm are in the folded position.

8. A backrest locking assembly for a vehicle seat comprising:

    a backrest reclining assembly having a base, a rotating latching mechanism, and a reclining arm that is fixedly mounted to a backrest of a vehicle seat, said rotating latching mechanism mounted between said reclining arm and said base defining an axis of rotation such that said reclining arm and the seat backrest may be operatively and selectively rotated relative to said base about said axis of rotation;

    a pivot arm mounted to said base and having a pivot axis point disposed at a predetermined distance from said axis of rotation of said reclining assembly;

    a locking arm rotatively mounted to said pivot arm coaxial to said axis of rotation of said reclining assembly, said locking arm selectively movable to rotate between a first locking position and a second locking position; and

    a support arm fixedly mounted to a seat bottom and rotatively mounted to said pivot arm at said pivot axis point, such that said pivot arm and the seat backrest may be rotated about said pivot axis point between an upright position and a folded position, said support arm providing a first locking point such that when said pivot arm and the seat backrest are in the upright position said first locking surface of said locking arm is engaged at said first locking point and said seat backrest is locked upright, said support arm further providing a second locking point such that when said pivot arm and the seat backrest are in the folded position said second locking surface of said locking arm is

engaged at said second locking point and the seat backrest is locked folded.

9. A backrest locking assembly as set forth in claim 8 wherein said first locking point for said locking arm is further defined as a locking pin.

10. A backrest locking assembly as set forth in claim 9 wherein said support arm further includes a terminal end that has a stepped surface which presents a stop to said locking arm when said pivot arm and the seat backrest are in the folded position.

11. A backrest locking assembly as set forth in claim 8 further including a biasing member adapted to bias said locking arm to remain in said first locking position unless selectively operated to rotate out of said first locked position and unlock said seat backrest when said seat backrest and said pivot arm are in the upright position.

12. A backrest locking assembly as set forth in claim 11 further including a cable release assembly that is remotely operable to selectively rotate said locking arm out of said first locked position and unlock said seat backrest when said seat backrest and said pivot arm are in the upright position.

13. A backrest locking assembly as set forth in claim 8 further including a biasing member adapted to bias said locking arm to remain in said second locking position when said seat backrest and said pivot arm are in the folded position unless selectively operated to rotate out of said second locked position and unlock said seat backrest.

14. A backrest locking assembly as set forth in claim 13 further including a cable release assembly that is remotely operable to selectively rotate said locking arm out of said second locked position and unlock said seat backrest when said seat backrest and said pivot arm are in the folded position.